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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/563,552	01/04/2006	Yoshimichi Kawai	52433/833	1468
26646 7590 09/03/2008 KENYON & KENYON LLP ONE BROADWAY NEW YORK, NY 10004				
EXAMINER				
LAUX, JESSICA L				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3635				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
09/03/2008		PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/563,552

**Applicant(s)**

KAWAI ET AL.

**Examiner**

JESSICA LAUX

**Art Unit**

3635

**Period for Reply** -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 January 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB-08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/4/06
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 5,6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claims are dependant on claim 1 which is an article/apparatus claim, however the preamble and body of the claims are method claims including method steps, which is inconsistent with claim 1. It is unclear if applicant is claiming a method or an apparatus. Accordingly the claims will be examined as best understood. Appropriate clarification is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

**Claims 1,3,5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by De Quesada (5782047).**

Claim 1. De Quesada discloses a panel structure of steel house built by constructing multi-story structural frameworks by forming wall panels by fastening face members (34) to rectangular frames of light-gage channels of sheet steels (24), constructing walls of each story by disposing said wall panels along the four sides of a rectangle (as seen in the figures), and assembling said wall panels and a floor panel consisting of a wall plate mounted on floor joists, the panel structure characterized by that; side ends of said floor panel are connected to the inner upper end of the wall

panels of the lower story (as seen in figures 8,9,11), and the end edges of the wall panels of the upper and lower stories on at least two opposite sides of said four sides are butt-joined (as seen in figures 8,9,11).

Claim 3. The panel structure of steel house according to claim 1, in which;  
the end edges of the wall panels of the upper and lower stories on two opposite sides are butt-joined by using rigid hardware whose upper and lower parts are anchored by fasteners to the wall frames of the wall panels of the upper and lower stories (as seen in figures 11,11A).

Claim 5. A method for constructing a panel structure of steel house according to claim 1, characterized by comprising steps of; constructing the walls of a lower story by disposing wall panels along the four sides of a rectangle, connecting at least two opposite sides of the wall panel to the inner upper end of the wall panels of the lower story, supporting the wall panel of an upper story by the wall panels of the lower story, and constructing the walls of the upper story by connecting the lower end of the wall panels of the upper story to the upper end of the wall panels of the lower story (as seen in the figures and presented above).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over De Quesada (5782047).**

Claim 4. De Quesada discloses the panel structure of steel house according to claim 3, in which; but does not expressly disclose that said connection hardware is made of tubular steel of a given length compressed at both ends, said tubular steel being passed through an opening in the web of the upper and lower frames of light-gage channels of sheet steels, and the compressed parts of the upper and lower tubular steels being anchored by fasteners to the web of the wall frames.

However, De Quesada does disclose connection hardware anchored by fasteners to the web of the wall frames (as seen in figures 11,11A). Further it is noted that there are many various types of known connection hardware for connecting upper and lower wall panels. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the connection hardware of De Quesada to have any of the known types of connection hardware to accommodate various assembly and design requirements for a specific building design, as well as for availability and cost factors.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 2 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art discloses the panel/building structure as in claims 1 and 5, but does not disclose that the upper edges of the wall panels of the lower story on two opposite sides are held lower than the upper edges of the wall panels of the lower story on other two opposite sides.

#### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JESSICA LAUX whose telephone number is (571)272-8228. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday, 9:00am to 5:00pm (est).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Chilcot can be reached on 571-272-6777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/J. L./  
Examiner, Art Unit 3635

/DAVID DUNN/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3636